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12/27/77  
(44)  
Sr. Jackie Hudson  
1315 Alexander S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Dear Sister Jackie:

Thank you for your letter of December 8th concerning the crash of the Navy plane in the Baltic Sea in April 1950.

I know you are concerned about determining the fate of the crew as are we. I must say, however that the evidence available supports the Navy's conclusion that they were lost in the crash at sea.

I know the anguish of families who do not know the exact fates of their loved ones lost in the service of their country. I wish it were possible to give them more comfort. The report that their relatives were lost in the crash and that their bodies were not recovered is one which even the passage of many years does not soften.

I can assure you that should there be any new evidence to support any other conclusion about these men, we would be more than ready to pursue the matter.

I appreciate your sharing your concerns with me.

Sincerely,

(S by IS for PD)  
Patricia M. Derian  
Assistant Secretary for  
Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Affairs

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December 29, 1977

Mr. Walt Meloon  
President, Correct Craft, Inc.  
P.O. Box 13389  
Orlando, Florida 32859.

Dear Mr. Meloon:

The President has asked me to respond to your letter of December 8, and to thank you for your expression of support for the Administration's Indochina Refugee Program.

With regard to your request that we assist refugees in the inland camps in Thailand, we have already set aside 8,000 spaces, or more than half of the total of 15,000 authorized, for the admission of those refugees. During January and early February the representatives of the U.S. Embassy Refugee Office and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service will be conducting their final interviews with the thousands of refugees already selected in a pre-screening process completed in December. Determination of eligibility will be made at this time, based on the criteria agreed upon after consultations with the Congress and the U.S. Immigration Service. Hopefully, a number of the refugees whom you met on your recent trip will be included. We are faced with a total of more than 90,000 Indochinese refugees in Thailand and are endeavoring to make our selection of 8,000 as fair and just as possible.

I hope the good work of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Asia will continue, maintaining your tradition of service and assistance.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian  
Assistant Secretary for  
Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Affairs

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December 30, 1977

Dear David:

I really appreciated your kind comments about my appearance on "Face the Nation" last Sunday, and your support of the Administration's work and goals to further human rights.

Thank you, too, for your letter of the nineteenth and the material on Argentina. I have passed it along to Michele Bova, who works very closely with me on the Argentinian problems.

I'm sorry that we missed connections last week and hope that we can get together early next year. I shall be traveling in Asia most of January, but expect to be back in the office toward the end of the month.

With all good wishes for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian  
Assistant Secretary for  
Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Affairs

cc: Miss Bova

Mr. David Geller,  
Director,  
European and Latin American  
Affairs,  
The American Jewish Committee,  
165 East 56th Street,  
New York, New York. 10022

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December 30, 1977

Dear Mr. Schueller:

I really appreciate your kind words about my appearance on "Face the Nation" last Sunday, and your support of the Administration's stand, work and goals in furthering human rights.

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to write, and to send your good wishes for the coming year. I also wish you the best in 1978.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian  
Assistant Secretary for  
Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. George K. Schueller,  
10951 Bucknell Drive,  
Silver Spring, Maryland. 20902

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December 30, 1977

Dear Mr. Pfeiffer:

Thank you for your kind words of encouragement about the Administration's human rights efforts. Your note is very much appreciated, and you may be sure we will continue to do all that we can.

With all good wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Derian  
Assistant Secretary for  
Human Rights and  
Humanitarian Affairs

Mr. Edward J. Pfeiffer,  
526 West Norman Avenue,  
Arcadia, California. 91006

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